

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08995 241016Z

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: MINISTER OF INTERIOR FRAGA FORESEES DEMOCRATIC FUTURE FOR SPAIN

REF: MADRID 8966 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF INTERIOR FRAGA, THE BEST KNOWN MEMBER

OF NEW GOVT APART FROM ARIAS, HAS MADE SEVERAL PUBLIC

STATEMENTS TRACING SPAIN'S PATH TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC

SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL WOULD PARTICIPATE EXCEPT THE

COMMUNISTS. HE PROMISED NO QUARTER FOR TERRORISTS

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PAGE 02 MADRID 08995 241016Z

ON EITHER POLITICAL EXTREME WHO WOULD SEEK TO COMPROMISE

GOVT'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY OUT FAR-REACHING REFORMS IN AN ORDERLY MANNER. HE SAID TWO YEARS WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE GENERAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE SWEARING-IN OF THE NEW UNDER SECRETARY OF GOVT, FRAGA DESCRIBED HIS OWN MISSION AS AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A MORE RECONCILIATED SPAIN WITH AN ACTIVE, PARTICIPATING CITIZENRY WITH SOCIAL GUARANTEES WHICH PROTECT THE WEAKEST MEMBER. THE FUNCTIONS OF HIS DEPARTMENT COULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS: (A) SECURITY; (B) PARTICIPATION; AND (C) SOCIAL ACTION. THE VARIOUS POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIRST, THE SECOND FELL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF LOCAL GOVT, AND THE THIRD WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH ESTABLISHMENT WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY. FRAGA PROMISED THAT IN ALL THREE AREAS HE WOULD STRIVE TO BE KNOWN BY HIS ACTIONS, RATHER THAN HIS WORDS. HE PROMISED TO ORIENT HIS APPOINTMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, AND POLICIES IN GENERAL TOWARDS THE GOAL OF A BROADER POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE BROADEST POSSIBLE EXERCISE OF CIVIL RIGHTS. THERE WOULD BE NO EXCEPTIONS, PRIVILEGES, OR DISCRIMINATION.

2. FRAGA DESCRIBED SECURITY OF THE STATE AS THE FIRST FUNCTION OF A POLITICAL COMMUNITY. IT WOULD NOT BE A SECURITY OF THE FEW BUT OF ALL WITHIN THE RULE OF LAW. ORDER ITSELF WAS NOT FEASIBLE UNLESS IT WAS JUST AND PROVIDED FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN ITS DEFINITION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VIOLENCE WAS UNFORTUNATELY A CONSTANT OF HUMAN SOCIETY. FRAGA PROMISED TO DISTINGUISH CAREFULLY BETWEEN THE ADVERSARY WHO LEGITIMATELY DEFENDS A CAUSE OR A POLITICAL OPTION AND THE ENEMY WHO MAKES WAR ON SOCIETY WITHOUT RESPECT FOR ANY LAW. THOSE WHO ADVOCATE VIOLENCE MUST KNOW THAT THEY WILL CONFRONT A DETERMINED POWER WHICH, BECAUSE OF ITS COMMITMENT TO NECESSARY REFORM, WILL NOT PERMIT SUCH VIOLENCE.

3. IN A JOINT MEETING WITH REPS OF "LE FIGARO"
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PAGE 03 MADRID 08995 241016Z

AND THE "SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" FRAGA MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE REPRODUCED IN SPAIN DEC 22. SPAIN, HE SAID, WOULD MOVE TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN WHICH THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD BE EXCLUDED. BECAUSE IT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE DEMOCRATIC RULES. THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN DOMINATED BY THE COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE TRIED TO CONVERT THEM INTO THE INSTRUMENT OF A SINGLE PARTY. IN HIS VIEW, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO TALK OF FREE UNIONS

UNTIL THE ORDER HAS BEEN REDRESSED WHEREBY PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS TAKE PRIORITY OVER POLITICAL ONES. FRAGA NOTED THAT THE EXAMPLE OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING PORTUGAL HARDLY PROVIDED A GOOD EXAMPLE OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

4. CONTINUING WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL EVOLUTION, FRAGA SAID THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS NOTING HOWEVER, THAT TO USE THE WORD "PARTY" WAS PREMATURE INASMUCH AS IT EVOKED SUCH DISASTROUS MEMORIES IN SPAIN. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR THE RIGHT OF DEMONSTRATION. FRAGA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH THE VARIOUS SOCIALIST GROUPS AND THOUGHT THAT THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN. ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE BODIES WOULD HAVE TO BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. IN HIS VIEW TWO YEARS WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE GENERAL ELECTIONS. AFTER NOTING THAT HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE 1966 PRESS LAWUHE SAID THAT IT WOULD - APPLIED IN THE MOST LIBERAL FASHION AND THAT ALREADY ONE COULD SAY THAT SPANISH NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS WERE BEING WRITTEN WITH GREATER FREEDOM. HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE EXTREME LEFT OR THE EXTREME RIGHT TO STAND IN THE WAY OF A DEVELOPING POLITICAL PROCESS. FRAGA DESCRIBED THE ISSUE OF REGIONS AS ONE OF THE MOST URGENT FACED BY THE GOVT. AND NOTED A COMMISSION WAS STUDYING IT.

5. FRAGA'S NAME IS MUCH IN THE NEWS AND IN THE PUBLIC VIEW. HIS LATEST BOOK WHICH DESCRIBES HIS OWN POLITICAL PROGRAM IS BEING ADVERTISED IN LARGE BILLBOARDS IN THE CAPITAL. ACCORDING TO A POLL PUBLISHED IN "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) DEC. 20, FRAGA IS THE BEST KNOWN POLITICIAN OF ALL THE MEMBERS IN THE NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MADRID 08995 241016Z

CABINET. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS, POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL OBSERVERS ALL AGREE THAT FRAGA IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE STRONGEST PERSONALITY IN THE CABINET AND PROBABLY THE ONE WHO WILL SET ITS POLITICAL LINE.

6. IN HIS FIRST WEEK AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, FRAGA HAS RETURNED PASSPORTS TO PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ AND TO THE LEADERS OF THE POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (TIERNO GALVAN AND RAUL MORODO). MEANWHILE, THE DIRGEN OF INTERNAL POLITICS IN HIS MINISTRY ISSUED A NOTE TO FORMER REPUBLICAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GIL ROBLES, THE PROMOTOR OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (FPD) SAYING THAT THE LATTER'S APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION AS A LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATION LACKED PRECISION IN CERTAIN POINTS WHICH PREVENTED

DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT ON THE APPLICATION. THE PREVIOUS
GOVT HAD HELD UP ANY ACTION ON THIS APPLICATION AND
GIL ROBLES TOLD PRESS REPS DEC 22 THAT, IN THE WAKE
OF THE PRESENT GOVT'S RESPONSE, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WERE
INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING ACCEPTANCE.
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